

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Claims 51 and 54 are allowed.

The prior art does not teach or suggest a fuel cell including all of the claimed features.

The most pertinent art includes Wilkinson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,682,839 B2) and Nakamura (Japanese Patent No. JP356114284A)

Both Wilkinson et al. and Nakamura do not teach or suggest detachably connecting a load across said membrane electrode assembly; and introducing fuel and oxygen into said anode chamber to oxidize said fuel to produce water, and detaching said load such that the system produces no electricity as claimed by applicant in claim 51.

For these reasons, the claims are allowed over the prior art. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ben Lewis whose telephone number is 571-272-6481. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ben Lewis/  
Examiner, Art Unit 1795

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